



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

Scott M. Matheson, Governor
Temple A. Reynolds, Executive Director
Dr. G. A. (Jim) Shirazi, Division Director

4241 State Office Building • Salt Lake City, UT 84114 • 801-533-5771

December 29, 1983

(P 396 996 904)
CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Robert H. Ruggeri, Attorney
P. O. Box 310
Moab, Utah 84532

RE: Final Conditional Approval
S & S Mining Company
Red Rock Mine
ACT/037/050
San Juan County, Utah

Dear Mr. Ruggeri:

Pursuant to the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act, Title 40-8, Utah Code Annotated 1953, the Board of Oil, Gas and Mining, on December 15, 1983, concurred with the Division staff over the amount and form of surety for the Red Rock Mine operated by S & S Mining Company. In accordance with Section 40-8-13(4) of the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act, notice had been published for a thirty (30) day public comment period. This ended during the first week of December 1983 and no adverse comments were received. However, due to certain outstanding considerations during the review, and because of unsatisfactory hole plugging procedures detected on a December 8, 1983 inspection, two stipulations are attached to the final conditional approval.

S & S Mining Company must provide information to satisfactorily address the two attached stipulations within thirty (30) days of receipt of this conditional approval letter. Furthermore, a written confirmation of acceptance of these conditions should be forwarded immediately to the Division. Should the information not be presented in a timely fashion, cause will be available for withdrawing approval.

Stipulation 1

The operator has provided no depth dimension for the proposed pond in the calculations submitted in the November 10 response letter. A volumetric assessment of the pond cannot be obtained from the surface area and the gallons per day (gal/yr) values provided.

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It is the Division's recommendation that the pond be constructed with a minimum average depth of 3.5 feet.

This should allow sufficient storage volume to provide for:

1. State Health requirement for a minimum storage of 120 days mine water production (2 feet = 164 days storage at 3,600 gal/day).
2. A 0.5 foot sediment storage level
3. At least one (1) foot of freeboard. (The State Health Department may require that three feet of freeboard be maintained. Contact that agency for final approval on this point.)

This pond in combination with emergency use only of the two upper existing evaporation ponds should be adequate to contain all mine discharges at the rates projected.

A submission of material updating the MRP and addressing these final construction criteria must be made.

The updated map recently submitted should be revised again to include the location of the new evaporation pond and its projected connection with the emergency overflow pond.

Stipulation 2

The operator's proposal to utilize straw bales to control erosion from the topsoil stockpile is valid. However, the placement of the bales should not be directly in the ephemeral wash as indicated on the map unless there is no alternative location. Placement in the natural drainage will likely receive continual maintenance problems.

The proposed diversion ditch should be designed and sized to handle storm runoff from the contributing watershed area based upon at least a 10-year, 24-hour storm. This ditch is considered temporary and must be reclaimed upon cessation of mining operations. The natural drainage patterns must be restored.

Additional attention must be paid to plugging all drill holes which the operator has utilized during the life of the project. These holes should be plugged early in 1984.

Construction of the evaporation pond is urged as soon as the Department of Health has given its final approval, assuming the ground has not yet frozen.

A commitment to implementing these procedures must also be provided by the operator to satisfy this stipulation.

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The Division will await S & S Mining Company's response. If there is anything that we may do to assist final resolution of the issues, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

for *RW Smith*
James W. Smith, Jr.
Coordinator of Mined
Land Development

JWS/TNT:btb

cc: Paul Mortensen, Attorney, Moab
Steve McNeal, Department of Health
D. Wayne Hedberg, DOGM